



# Welcome to Week 06

Literature Review  
Strategies and  
Conceptual/Theoretical  
Frameworks

# Updates

- Site Updates
- Reminder to keep things moving
  
- Inba Kehoe, Head of Copyright and Scholarly Communications at UVic Libraries will join us next week to talk more about open access.
- Professor Normand Roy from the University of Montreal will join us later in November to talk about AI-enabled research processes
  
- Literature review presentation dates will be October 30, November 6 and 13
  - Ordering of presentations – who wants to start?
  - <https://wheelofnames.com/> ?

- A **theory** is a generalized statement of abstractions or ideas that asserts, explains, or predicts relationships or connections between or among phenomena.
- The **theoretical framework** is a structure that summarizes concepts and theories which you develop from previously tested and published knowledge. It is **composed of theories** expressed by experts in the field that the researcher draws upon to provide a "theoretical coat hanger" for data analysis and interpretation of results.
- The **conceptual framework** is the total, logical orientation and associations of everything that forms the underlying thinking, structures, plans, practices, and implementation of the entire research project. Unlike the **theoretical framework**, which uses other people's theoretical perspectives, the conceptual framework could be the product of the researcher's own thinking about the study.

- Theory

- Things in the Room - A generalized statement of abstractions or ideas that asserts, explains, or predicts relationships between phenomena.

- Theoretical Framework

- A Room In The House - A structure that summarizes concepts and theories drawn from previously tested and published knowledge. It is a synthesis of the thoughts of "giants" or leaders in the research field.

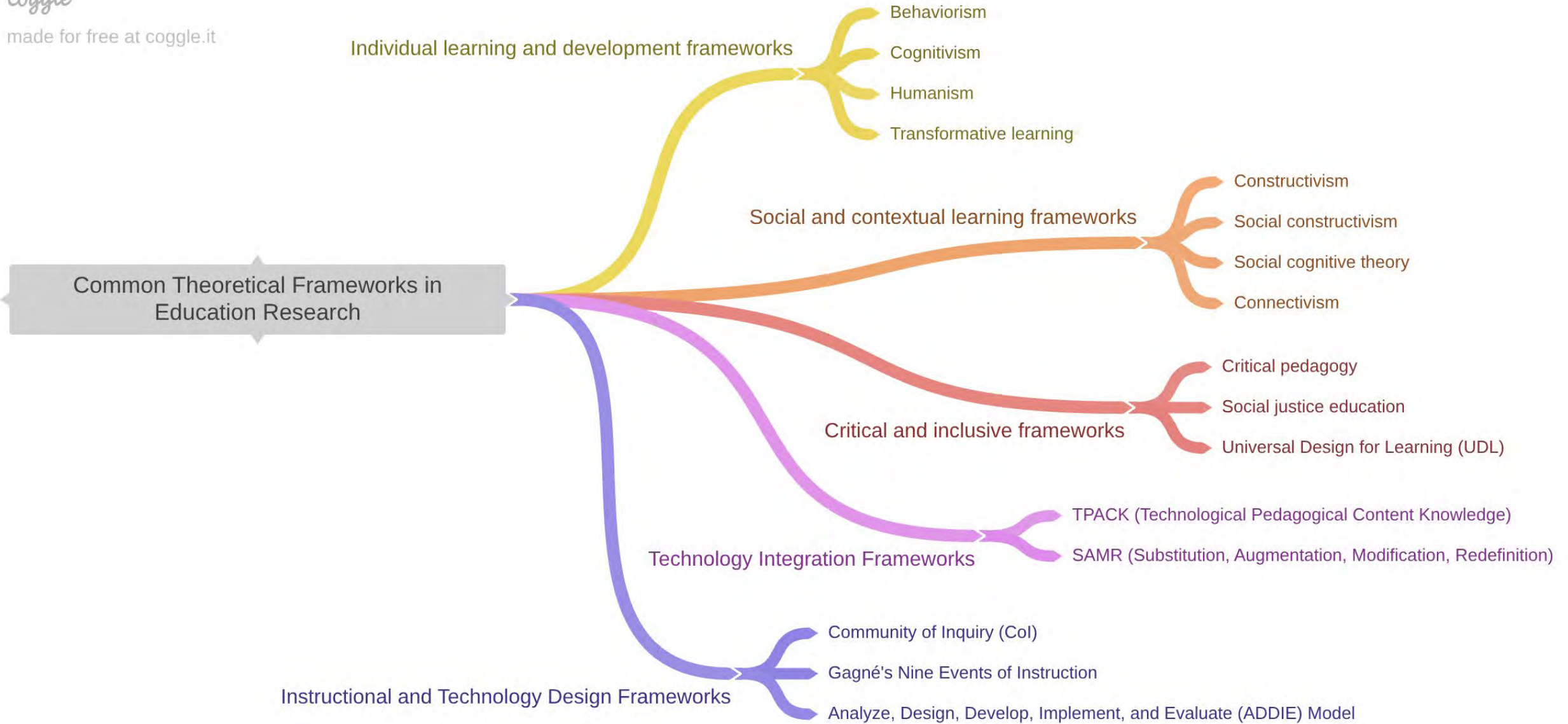
- Conceptual Framework

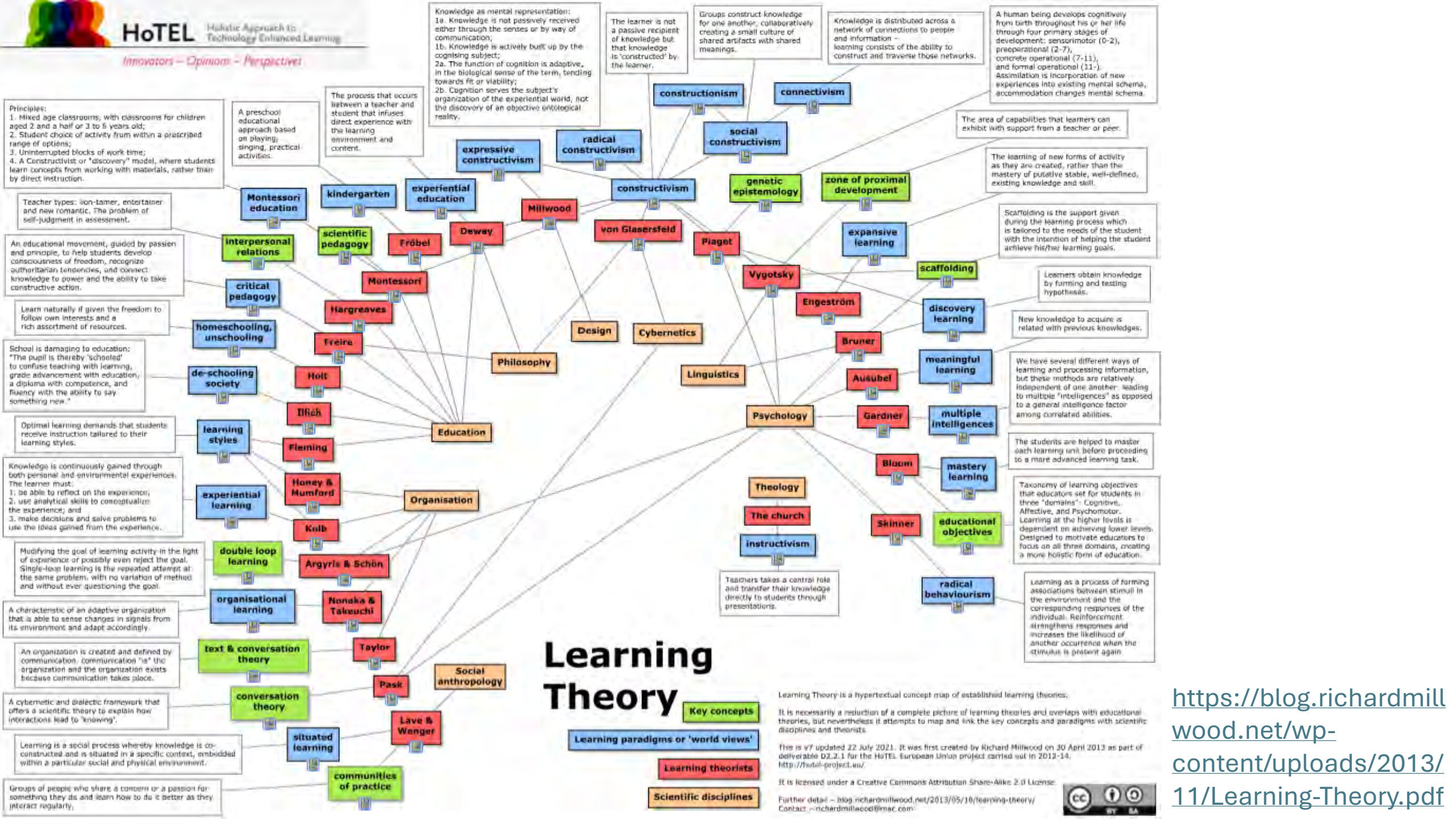
- The Logical Master Plan for the House - The total, logical orientation and associations of everything that forms the underlying thinking, structures, plans, and implementation of the entire research project.



# Peer Sharing

- **What** theory is surfacing in your area?
- Take note of **if**, and **how**, they are used by authors in the research.
- **Where** do they get discussed in the paper?
- How are they combined or are they used in isolation?





Learning Theory is a hypertextual concept map of established learning theories.

It is necessarily a reduction of a complete picture of learning theories and overlaps with educational theories, but nevertheless it attempts to map and link the key concepts and paradigms with scientific disciplines and theorists.

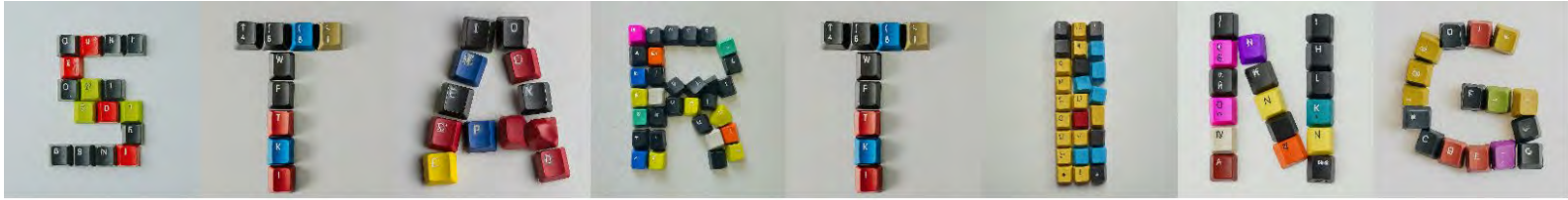
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Further detail - [blog.richardmillwood.net/2013/05/10/learning-theory/](http://blog.richardmillwood.net/2013/05/10/learning-theory/)  
 Contact - [richardmillwood@mac.com](mailto:richardmillwood@mac.com)



<https://blog.richardmillwood.net/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Learning-Theory.pdf>



# Getting started with the literature review

1. **Identify key terms** to use in your search for literature.
2. **Locate literature** about a topic by consulting several types of materials and databases.
3. **Critically evaluate** and select the literature for your review.
4. **Organize** the literature you have selected by abstracting or taking notes on the literature.
5. **Write** a literature review that reports summaries of the literature for inclusion in your research report.

# 1. Identify key terms to use in your search for literature.

- Conduct general searches in your research area using research databases.
- Expand search by identifying adjacent terms in the research for inclusion (e.g. online learning, distance education, open learning).
- Work with Pia Russell or a research librarian for assistance.

## **2. Locate literature about a topic by consulting several types of materials and databases.**

- Start with the Uvic library database.
- Use citation tracing methods on specific articles of interest.
- As you come to recognize specific authors, journals, and publications of interest, you may use internet search to dig deeper.
  - Google Scholar or Orchid Id pages can be very useful for accessing an author's work.
  - Searching with journals that resonate with you can also be useful.

### **3. Critically evaluate and select the literature that is relevant for your review.**

- Conduct initial screening using the abstract and methods sections
- Questions to ask:
  - Is it from a valid and accurate source?
  - Is the date of publication important?
  - Is it relevant to your present study?
  - Are there concerns about objectivity and bias?

## 4. Organize the literature you have selected by abstracting or taking notes on the literature.

- Take notes and summarize studies as you read. For example, you may identify and document the research problem, research questions or hypotheses, data collection procedure, and a summary of the results of the study.
  - You may use a spreadsheet to capture the descriptive fields you need across the articles reviewed ([sample of one I used](#), or [another](#)).
- Try to identify themes and trends from the literature reviewed.
  - You may use mind maps or visualizations to distill this analysis.

## **5. Write a literature review that reports summaries of the literature for inclusion in your research report.**

- Seek to present your literature according to themes rather than dealing with articles one at a time, such as the case with an annotated bibliography.
- The goal is to demonstrate engagement with the literature on your area of focus and present the research done to date.
  - If your research area has a long history, you may delimit to a specific time period to keep manageable.

# Example

If researching professional development (PD) in higher education, you might see the literature through several lenses. Some potential themes in this area might include:

- Motivations and the need for teacher PD in higher education
- Approaches to PD design and delivery
- Challenges to PD
- Approaches that have worked in PD
- Face to face versus online PD
- Self-directed vs coordinated PD
- Disciplinary differences in PD offerings
- Theoretical models use in PD research
- Methods used to assess and evaluate PD programs

# Summarize, Paraphrase, or Quote?

- Summarize when you need only the point of a passage, section, or even a whole article or book. Summary is useful for context or views that are related but not specifically relevant to your research project.
- Paraphrase when the specific words of a passage are less important than its meaning. Paraphrasing doesn't mean changing just a word or two. You must replace most of the words and phrasing of the original with your own.
- Quote when:
  - The words are from an authority you plan to rely on or challenge.
  - The words are strikingly original or so compelling that the quotation can frame the rest of your discussion.
  - The source makes a claim that you disagree with, and to be fair you want to state that claim exactly.